

Subject: Macabean Revolt--imitation  
Jewish shekel.

Kalamazoo Public Library  
(Kalamazoo, MI)

February 13, 1920

Recipient: Roberts, Flora B., Librarian

February 13, 1920

Miss Flora B. Roberts, Librarian  
Public Library  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Madam:

The coin, a rubbing of which you enclose in your letter of February 9th, is an imitation of the Jewish shekel issued during the Maccabaeen revolt. This coin, while not one of the great numismatic rarities, is scarce, and on account of its historical and sentimental interest, very much in demand. For many years, even centuries, imitations of it have been known, the latter ones similar to the piece about which you inquire. Probably most of these imitations were not made with any intention to deceive, but as souvenirs. They have, however, through falling into unscrupulous or ignorant hands, been a source of considerable annoyance to numismatists.

The original shekel is a silver coin about  $7/8$ ths of an inch in diameter, bearing an inscription and devices similar to those on your piece, but of considerably ruder workmanship. The size of your piece immediately establishes the fact that it is not an original.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.